MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

(*Sixth Series*) 6

By
F. PARKES WEBER
M.D., F.R.C.P., F.S.A.



LONDON
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1960

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Dedicated to my dear Wife,
who has helped me
as is usual with all my writings

F. PARKES WEBER

1960

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GOLDFINDERS

Finding of gold and jewels may be interesting or un interesting As an example of uninteresting finding I may mention the following I was walking in Picca dilly long ago when I noticed a diamond bracelet lying on the pavement. I picked it up and as I was near Vine Street police station I took it there and asked what I was to do about it They said ' leave it here with us we will find out if anyone claims it " At that time I was living with my father and mother at 10 Grosvenor Street and after some time Vine Street police station wrote to me that no one had claimed it and that they would hand it over to me if I paid a not very large sum for their expenses My dear mother said that she would buy it from me at the police valuation so that I could spend the money for my numismatic and archaeological collections In contrast to this uninteresting finding I will mention an interesting finding by my brother in law, the late Mr Wycliffe-Taylor a gold penannular ornament (ring money) found before the war, 1914-1918 on the beach under the cliff at Hope Gap, Cuckmere Haven, Seaford Sussex After my brother in law's death, my sister Mrs Wycliffe Taylor, thought she ought to present it to the British Museum She has the official letter of thanks (July 31, 1928) signed by Frederic Kenyon Director and Principal Librarian

It seems that this piece of ring money had been in circulation amongst the soldiers and others on the cliff above the spot where it was found and had been accidentally dropped over the cliff edge This was not the first interesting numismatic find made by my

brother-in law near the cliff's edge He had already found at least one piece of British gold money of the well known uniface type derived by a process of copying from the gold staters of Philip II of Macedon which circulated practically over the whole ancient world My brother-in law also interested himself in finds of flint implements and taught himself how to imitate them like the famous "Flint Jack", a small collection of whose productions I once possessed together with his photograph and a small iron hammer that he used for chipping Of course he could not imitate the natural 'patina" often present on flint surfaces that had been long buried

A very remarkable find of ancient gold occasionally made in Europe is a bracelet or other object of massive gold I think that a French archaeologist suggested that after the last ice age the world was left sparsely dotted with lumps of gold on or near the surface When these fell into the hands of some worldly potentate he would have them turned into massive bracelets or other articles of adornment This would explain the massive golden bracelets in various European collections, each one perhaps representing a prehistoric find of gold The golden cup belonging to the "König in Thule" in Goethe's famous poem might have resulted from a find of this kind!

"Finds" of valuable coins and medals can be made by simple visits to the great dealers I remember frequently meeting an enthusiastic "finder" at afternoon meetings of the dermatological section of the Royal Society of Medicine He lived in one of the grand houses of Edgbaston, Birmingham and was a great admirer of fine coins and medals and exquisite

furniture I used sometimes to sit next to him at [illegible] meetings of the dermatological section It [illegible] to London and [illegible] de at the great London dealers I not rarely sat next to him at these afternoon meetings when he would show me the finds he had made in London They would include specimens sought by collectors all over the world such as Syracusan dekadrachms of the finest period of Greek art a large English silver twenty shilling piece struck at Oxford under King Charles I during the civil war with the King on horseback on the obverse and a [illegible]

medals and exquisite furniture whereas he insisted that by such purchases he invested his money very well Anyhow the difference of opinion led to serious results—so much so that he did not want to show me what he had collected in the presence of his wife and daughter and his collecting propensity led to disaster in the end It must indeed be admitted that the possession of valuable collections in the house leads to the necessity of employing complicated safes and safe rooms and troublesome insurance methods not to mention mistrust of domestic servants Sometimes originals might wisely be got rid of and their place taken by plastercasts sealing wax impressions or electrotypes This is one way of getting rid of considerable anxiety Indeed I wonder that numismatists are not more often contented with possessing a collection of plastercasts and electrotypes and a few very important originals on which they are or have been writing

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diseased bloodvessels When one was near the shore the method was worth trying, it might just suffice to enable one to get on shore without being seasick. I had opportunities of carefully trying the method on myself When I spoke of this method at the Royal Society of Medicine I had already convinced myself of its use in some cases But on the whole in my own case I came to prefer lying flat on my back in the large cabin as soon as I got on board, and trying to get to sleep The worst storm I was ever in was in the Mediterranean on a passage with my father from Brindisi to Corfu My father and I had dinner at the hotel in the evening and took our places in the ship in small sleeping cabins before the storm commenced I had begun to sleep but woke up vomiting violently There were little streaks of blood in the vomit I think my father was slightly less affected than I was Before we reached Corfu the storm had completely ceased It did neither of us any permanent harm[1] In calm foggy weather I must own it is not nice to hear an iron partition being pulled out to divide the large cabin in case of a collision In crossing the English Channel, unless the weather is very fine, I prefer to lie down on my back at once on entering the ship but the 'suffocation' method is worth trying if the passage is stormy Of course veganin, etc may be useful

SEASICKNESS

As a small boy we spent our holidays mostly at Folkestone, at a lodging house in the Sandgate Road (Mrs Baker) We nearly always had the whole house, and my mother used to hire a piano when she was with us Most of the morning was spent with our nurse on the beach Not rarely our nurse would take places in one of those large rowing boats which were always ready to start To beguile the time a man standing up in the boat would be singing music hall songs, such as "Champagne Charlie" In the summer of 1870 one nurse suggested one might hear the cannon on the other side of the Channel Often I would get seasick, and the sixpence or a shilling paid for my seat in the boat would buy me seasickness and nothing else When I got a little older and a cousin of mine of the same age was staying with us we two were allowed to go out in a boat by ourselves I then found that strenuous rowing could mostly prevent the onset of seasickness, but it had to be very strenuous when rowing round the pier

During frequent trips across the Channel I was able to try out a new method which had been recommended for opposing the onset of seasickness It consisted in the wearing of a mask which could be made with a valvular opening to prevent the inhalation of fresh air In other words it more or less suffocated the wearer, but it certainly delayed the onset of seasickness The discomfort however would soon become intolerable and after a short time one would prefer seasickness to the suffocation, moreover of course the method could not be tried in the case of persons with

diseased bloodvessels When one was near the shore the method was worth trying it might just suffice to enable one to get on shore without being seasick I had opportunities of carefully trying the method on myself When I spoke of this method at the Royal Society of Medicine I had already convinced myself of its use in some cases But on the whole in my own case I came to prefer lying flat on my back in the large cabin as soon as I got on board and trying to get to sleep The worst storm I was ever in was in the Mediterranean on a passage with my father from Brindisi to Corfu My father and I had dinner at the hotel in the evening and took our places in the ship in small sleeping cabins before the storm commenced I had begun to sleep but woke up vomiting violently There were little streaks of blood in the vomit I think my father was slightly less affected than I was Before we reached Corfu the storm had completely ceased It did neither of us any permanent harm! In calm foggy weather I must own it is not nice to hear an iron partition being pulled out to divide the large cabin in case of a collision In crossing the English Channel unless the weather is very fine I prefer to lie down on my back at once on entering the ship but the suffocation method is worth trying if the passage is stormy Of course veganin etc may be useful

CURIOSITY

I have been completely blind for many years, and on waking up in the morning I often fancy that I can see an open newspaper with printed matter in various languages which I can only partly understand, some of it in Greek characters When I try to decipher it before it disappears I find that it contains information of a general character, some of it of commercial nature inducing me to buy or consult new books This was rather like the information I used to obtain when travelling through beautiful mountain scenery in Switzerland and reading the printed descriptive accounts fastened up in the corridor of the railway coach

This brings me to the subject of abnormal curiosity in children Can this be due to excess or abnormal development of special parts of the brain? Perhaps the curiosity which induced me as a child to take a toy violin to pieces was only a variety of the curiosity which induced Le Marchant's boy at Reading to try to find out how his kindly nurse passed urine When the boy finally died the only brain abnormality found was a local excess of brain tissue in the pineal region If such a local excess of brain tissue had been situated in another part of the brain perhaps it would have given rise to insatiable curiosity of a scientific nature leading to some great scientific discovery

THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONG AT NIGHT

I think it was only at school at Charterhouse that I have gone to sleep at night whilst listening to the call of a nightingale The wooded left side of the valley leading up from Godalming to Charterhouse was the abode of nightingales who often made themselves heard at night This was a fresh experience to me and one that has never been repeated It was enjoyable because it was never sufficient to keep me awake

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My words for what I call

"THE SEHNSUCHT (LONGING) MELODY"

O give me wings that I may fly
And strength enough to reach the sky
Then would I fly from star to star
And have a wondrous time

I do not know where the melody came from nor do I know anybody who does know

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

(*Eleventh Series*) II

By
F. PARKES WEBER
M.D., F.R.C.P., F.S.A.



LONDON
K. LEWIS & Co. Ltd.
1961

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

(Eleventh Series) II

By
F. PARKES WEBER
M.D., F.R.C.P., F.S.A



LONDON
K. LEWIS & Co Ltd.
1961

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Dedicated to my dear Wife,
Dr Hedwig Weber,
who has helped me
in this as in all my writings

Printed in Great Britain
by E. T HERON & CO LTD *London & Essex*

POLITICAL RIVALRY ILLUSTRATED OR CARICATURED ON MEDALETS JETTONS PICTURE POST CARDS Etc

During the Boer War I was travelling in Europe endeavouring to get correct information about mineral waters and climatic Health Resorts in Europe But I found it rather difficult All the doctors were of course anxious to give me information for a book which I was writing with my father But when they heard that my brother was with the British Army in Ladysmith they would turn the subject of conversation as soon as they could from Health Resorts to Ladysmith They were all of them against England and they could hardly understand the position of my brother with the English Forces at Ladysmith In fact though they knew that I was writing a book on European Health Resorts with my father the subject of the war was of greater interest to them The deadly anti British picture post-cards published by the Dutch played an important part in the war However the British did win the war in spite of all the Dutch caricatures One more word about Dutch caricatures I believe they were the most forcible in the world For two hundred years or more the Dutch caricatures had been supreme I need only refer back to certain seventeenth century Dutch medallic caricatures of themselves to illustrate my point On certain jettons a river is represented with two chamber pots floating on it which represent two rival political parties The legend signifies if

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On the evening of their visit to my consulting room in London I chanced to meet them in a theatre where some of my family had good seats in the stalls They came in and sat exactly in front of us My brother, who was back from Ladysmith, was with us just behind the stalls on which the engaged couple were seated I could hardly restrain myself from introducing my brother to the engaged couple, but I had no real right to disturb them

they collide they are broken In my opinion these should be reckoned amongst the cleverest medallic caricatures in existence.

* * * *

I understand that Victorian chamber-pots, whether *of the willow or other patterns, are being collected in* the United States, where they serve as receptacles *filled with ice for keeping champagne or wine bottles* cool. I have no doubt that a collection of the various types of chamber-pots is quite interesting I have however never myself seen a collection of this kind and can hardly picture them as filling up a room either in the British or South Kensington Museum!

* * * *

I had of course to take my share in selecting European Health Resorts for some of the defeated Boer Commanders

From the medical point of view the war had gradually to be forgotten in regard to the selection *of health resorts for British and Boers alike*

A very popular British Commander became engaged *to the daughter of the Marquis of Ormond It* was my privilege to select a suitable health resort *where they might spend their honeymoon* I selected Wilhelmshohe, near *Cassel, with, I believe, satisfactory* results.

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I have been worried and somewhat puzzled recently by spherules appearing in the mouth in connection with salivary glands and their ducts until their nature was pointed out to me by Doctor Hildegarde Fischer and others as being calcareous

These sperules are probably analogous to those occasionally found in heaped up epidermal débris elsewhere for instance under a great toe-nail I remember one such in my own person which caused considerable pain until it was scraped out

MY FATHER AS *ADVOCATUS DIABOLI*

When he had any spare time my father liked to visit the chemical or other departments of the University of Bonn Everywhere he was a welcome visitor and I believe that some professors offered him an assistanceship in case he might want to change his work Naturally my father felt pleased and spoke well of them even though some of them were not personal friends of Professor Nasse On one such occasion Professor Nasse said to my father "Herman, *du bist advocatus diaboli*

Dr Walter Pagel has kindly given me a number of References about Professor Friedrich Nasse and his life work at Bonn but I have no space to enter into details at present

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

(*Twelfth Series*)

By

F. PARKES WEBER

M.D., F.R.C.P., F.S.A.



LONDON
K. LEWIS & Co Ld.
1961

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Dedicated to my dear Wife,
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F PARKES WEBER

1961

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INCREASED LENGTH OF LEGS DUE TO CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

I well remember frequently seeing at the German Hospital, London, an out patient boy with remarkably increased length of legs due to congenital syphilis This gave him the ridiculous appearance of walking on stilts but he did not seem to suffer much The condition was evidently due to chronic osteomyelitis which of course, brought increased blood supply to the affected parts

My surgical colleague, Dr J P Zum Busch, gave me an excellent photograph of the case, which had been already published by an older colleague

• • • •

The importance of being able to recognise the commencement of constitutional syphilis cannot be overestimated In former times when walking down the highways of the City of London one was able to recognize the commencement of an early stage of constitutional syphilis by the appearance of lymphatic growth on one side of the neck

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5

CONFUSIONAL DREAMS

[illegible]

A young man may have been invited for a weekend visit to a rather large house in the country The dinner may be richer and more spicy than those to which he is accustomed The conversation may be excited and associated with mysterious stories not without superstitious and ghostly allusions After much talk the young man goes to his bedroom in a rather isolated part of the house His mind is excited as the result of the stories and a real nightmare may ensue Nevertheless he comes down to breakfast next morning apparently unaffected by the nightmare

The following night may be still worse, or accompanied by only moderate disturbance of sleep He may think that he is travelling with his friends [illegible]

find them—he becomes hopeless, and suddenly the dream ends There are, of course, many similar varieties of such dreams, but all of them end in hopeless fatigue before he suddenly wakes up

Such dreams may occur only at one part of a person s life and, of course, the varieties of confusional dreams of analogous nature are innumerable

4

CALCAREOUS SPHERULES

I want now to add a word regarding the condition of the salivary apparatus associated with the discharge of calcareous spherules which I have described in my eleventh series of "Miscellaneous Notes"

Although I believe that the condition should be admitted to take its place as a definite morbus I should very much like to know who wrote the first clear description of the condition I think his account should be reprinted, and his name should be permanently associated with the morbus in question

7

AN AGNOSTIC PRINCIPLE

My mind it is uncertain,
Uncertain is my mind
And if it were quite certain
It could not be my mind!

F P W
June the 3rd 1961

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
All the King's horses and all the King's men
Could not put Humpty Dumpty together again.
(Nursery Rhyme)

A friend once told me of such disagreeable dreams when he was a busy Member of Parliament Living a more leisurely life, accompanied by moderate success, I think that these dreams disappeared

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A NOTE ON THE MEDICAL USE OF SUGAR AND CHOCOLATE CAPSULES CONTAINING COGNAC OR A LIQUEUR

When one of these is allowed to dissolve in the mouth, the part about one's tonsils becomes flooded with alcohol, and this is the simplest and the best method of applying alcohol to the region I think it constitutes a valuable method in opposing the development of acute streptococcal sore throat *(Angina Faucium)*

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

(*Thirteenth Series*) 13

By

F. PARKES WEBER
M.D., F.R C.P., F.S.A.



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3

SEQUEL TO A PAPER ENTITLED "CASE OF ACHLORHYDRIC ANAEMIA IN A MALE FOLLOWED UP FOR TWENTY YEARS"

Clanging Sounds in the Ear following Each Syllable

This is a most distressing or even painful symptom due to temporary catarrhal obstruction at the pharyngeal orifice of the Eustachian tube Most doctors commence by syringing out the external auditory meatus This is usually no good or even makes matters worse Steaming the whole head (inhaling with head covered) mostly removes the obstruction after a time When the obstruction is quite removed, I think the occasional use of chocolate and sugar capsules containing alcohol helps to prevent recurrence

These Miscellaneous Notes" serve to show that in spite of the great number of medical syndromes which have been described there are still a number of syndromes of lesser importance, although fairly well recognised which have never as yet received a name These include the occasional discharge of calcareous spherules from the salivary apparatus in the mouth, which I have especially drawn attention to in my "Miscellaneous Notes", eleventh and twelfth series *

* H. K. Lewis and Co Ltd. 1961

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Dedicated to my dear Wife,
Dr Hedwig Weber,
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F PARKES WEBER

1961

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up the cliff There was plenty of opportunity for slipping My eldest sister, afterwards Mrs Ernest Schuster, with her small feet, dexterously led the way into the mouth of the cave, and we all rejoiced though there was nothing special to be seen in the cave itself The beach of the Warren was full of fossils from the limestone and the adjoining layer of gault If you were lucky you might pick up an ancient British (Celtic) uniface gold coin These gold coins were all "distant" copies of the gold staters of King Philip the second of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great the design was the remains of the chariot on the reverse of King Philip's gold coins King Philip owned famous gold mines which enabled him to supply the whole of the western world with a currency of gold staters, the chariot on the reverse was barbarously copied to form the design of the uniface gold coins of Britain and other more or less uncivilised countries We now see that his so-called Philips may well have given rise to a family name in Wales or elsewhere

* * * *

King Philip—his name meaning "lover of horses" —was really a lover of horses and of horse racing He used to send his horses into G[illegible]
at the gr[illegible]
recently [illegible]
European races in a vain attempt to win prizes for Russia

Friends to the left of him,
Friends to the right of him.
Friendship in front of him
Friendship behind him, peace and prosperity,
Love and longevity,
Onwards together.

* * * *

Recollecting summer holidays spent as a boy with my mother and sisters at Folkestone, I was not rarely suffering from biliousness, especially when I visited the harbour or ate too much fish

* * * *

My mother's favourite lodgings were in the Sandgate Road, where she was able to hire a piano and entertain young musical visitors, like Max Power, who was about my age I well remember a ride with him on a heavy tricycle to Canterbury and back I think that playing the piano had made his hands and wrists stronger than mine and better able to control the brakes on the way home along the descending road to the east of the town Max Power did not visit the "Warren" with me, but what a place for instruction the whole neighbourhood was! There one could visit the remains of an old Roman villa one could practise cliff climbing to one's heart content. Once my sisters and I made an excursion after midday dinner to the smuggler's cave as it then existed. The entrance then was to the *left of a path*

the Red Comyn in a church in Scotland The murderer is said to have come running out of the church to join the party of Robert Bruce who were waiting for him—he called out "I am afeared that I have killed the Red Comyn" "What! Afeared?" said Kirkpatrick—"I ll mak sicker!"—and Kirkpatrick went into the church and did make sure

* * * *

FROM WHAT OLD ENGLISH COLLECTION DID THE GREEK VASE COME WHICH I NOW CALL THE STURGE WEBER PANATHENAIC AMPHORA AT TORONTO?

In an article in the *British Medical Journal* entitled The Sturge Kalisher Disease, and the Sturge Weber Panathenaic Amphora at Toronto" (*Brit Med Journal*, 1936, Vol I, page 708), I described how I obtained the Greek vase in question

A well known dealer opposite the British Museum offered me fragments of a Greek painted terracotta vase in a wire basket As far as I remember he said he had obtained the fragments at an auction sale a day or two before By mistake the vase had been dropped and broken into fragments He obtained the fragments for very little money and offered them to me for very little more I bought them eagerly and had them put together It turned out to be one of the

I happened to be with my father during one of his short visits to his family at Folkestone, when at the entrance to the Warren he was offered a good specimen of the ordinary type of uniface British gold coins This he bought for his collection and I think it constituted the only specimen of a British gold coin in his (afterwards) large collection On this occasion he expressed great regret that by doing this he was slightly late for my mother's midday meal

* * * *

My father on his short visits to us at Folkestone usually spent much of his time gathering wild flowers in the little woods to the west of the town He possessed enormous energy, and during his short or longer visits he organised excursions to almost all the interesting places along the coast, such as Saltwood Castle, where the murderers of Archbishop Thomas à Becket spent the night before they committed the crime—the famous charnel house at Hythe—various beaches and lighthouses—while my mother was still able to walk a good deal

* * * *

Of course he was also interested in the historic names of clergymen and others of the neighbourhood for instance the clergyman Kirkpatrick who on his writing paper had a hand, holding a dagger with the motto "I'll mak sicker" alluding to the murder of

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vases that had been awarded as a prize at panathen aic games at Athens—doubtless filled with olives In fact it was a very fine specimen with a legend at the base signifying

"Of the prizes from Athens"

I saw no reason for disbelieving what the dealer told me, but I never ascertained from what sale the vase came In fact I never cross-questioned the dealer who was almost a personal friend of mine I feel sure that if I had asked him, he would have told me all he knew The vase had been broken at least once before and may well have been in some English collection and I am very sorry that I never took the trouble to clear up this point It may have been in England even hundreds of years before I must therefore leave the question unanswered

Dr Sturge, who was retiring from his medical practice in the south of France saw the vase in Mr Talbot Reading s shop in Rathbone Place after it had been wonderfully mended by members of the Ready family connected with the British Museum

Dr Sturge said that he must have this vase for his collection and, on hearing that it belonged to Dr Parkes Weber, he asked Mr Ready to arrange to acquire it Mr Ready accordingly offered to remit a considerable sum of money which I owed him, if I allowed him to sell the vase to Dr Sturge Dr Sturge after some years sold his whole collection to the Toronto Museum where it still remains